



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

JURY CONVICTS COLUMBUS MAN OF KILLING WITNESSES

Trial enters second phase – consideration of death penalty

COLUMBUS - A United States District Court jury here today convicted **Thomas A. Henderson**, age 55, of Columbus of killing two people who provided information that led to his conviction for robbing a bank in Macon, Georgia in 1981.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; J. Mark Batts, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division, and Columbus Police Chief James G. Jackson, in conjunction with Pickerington Police Chief Michael Taylor and Fairfield County Sheriff David Phelan, announced the verdict returned today following a trial that began June 5 before United States District Judge Algenon L. Marbley.

The jury convicted Henderson of shooting and killing Robert Bass on November 4, 1996 in Pickerington, and Ecolia Washington on November 2, 1998 in Columbus. Washington testified against Henderson in his federal trial in 1981. Bass provided information to investigators regarding the robbery. Henderson was convicted and served nearly 15 years in federal prison.

The jury convicted Henderson of two counts of killing a federal witness, and two counts of using a firearm in a crime of violence.

“The trial now moves into the second phase,” Lockhart said. “We will ask the jury to determine whether or not Henderson is eligible to receive the death penalty.” If the jury finds Henderson eligible, there will be a third phase to determine Henderson’s sentence.”

Henderson is currently in federal prison serving a 20-year sentence for a 2000 conviction on firearm and drug trafficking charges.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by agents and officers of the FBI, the Columbus Police Unsolved Case Review Unit and Pickerington Police, and Fairfield County Sheriff’s Deputies, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys David DeVillers and Kevin Kelley, who are prosecuting the case.

#